

The History of Riverside Cemetery

By Thalia Patlán Stautzenberger, City Secretary

Among Riverside Cemetery's noteworthy and outstanding inhabitants are numerous Texas heroes, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the first shareholders of the City of Seguin, pioneer settlers, civil servants, educators, business leaders, clergy, musicians, military personnel and Texas Rangers to name a few.

There are approximately 2,500 cemetery records (ranging from the early 1800's) but some are unknown and unverified. Tombstones have been lost to time, floods and neglect. The cemetery has a wealth of beauty in the headstones and there is a fascination in the stories of those laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery.

This cemetery is a tangible link to the past and sheds light on those who came before us. Riverside Cemetery is a marker of human history and it reveals the love, toil, tears, joys and triumphs of the past. The contributions of those laid to rest, through their cultural, religious and historical backgrounds tell the story of the evolution of the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County.

Riverside Cemetery is a treasure to the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County. The work that the City of Seguin has completed with the Riverside Cemetery monument sign is the beginning of many projects yet to be completed and future projects to bring the cemetery to its fulfillment of its glory days.

I am delighted to see that my letter to the Mayor and Council on October 5, 2013 was given merit in addressing the needs of Riverside Cemetery. I am grateful to our City Manager, Mr. Faseler for his recommendations, insight from the Friends of Riverside Cemetery, the Mayor and Council for supporting the projects, the Parks & Recreation staff for their diligence in working with this office on all the Riverside cemetery requests over the years, the attentiveness of Main Street and Parks and Rec staff in working with the Women's Federated Club on the annual re-enactments and bringing light to a major historical site, and again to Jack Jones, Parks and Recreation Director for oversight in seeing the Riverside Cemetery Monument bloom into a reality.

Riverside Cemetery is a cornerstone in that we as a community are able to regain a sense of our own place in time in history by giving merit to our ancestors and protecting our past.